

County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health CalWORKs Mental Health Supportive Services

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the Los Angeles County CalWORKs program is to improve the lives of children and families by assisting adults/caretakers to become economically self-sufficient. Pursuant to this goal, the major objectives include:

1. Helping participants secure employment.
2. Helping participants retain employment.
3. Helping participants secure employment with sufficiently high earnings to no longer qualify for cash assistance.

In Los Angeles County, the CalWORKs program includes specialized supportive services for mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence to assist participants in overcoming barriers to employment, job maintenance and job advancement.

The primary objective of L.A. Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program is to help CalWORKs participants develop financial self-sufficiency through employment. After aid is approved, nonexempt participants are required to participate in Welfare-to-Work activities. GAIN provides motivational and goal setting workshops, intensive job finding workshops, and short-term job-focused training and education. It pays for childcare and transportation. It partners with local school and community college districts, job search provider sites, vocational assessors, child care resources, referral agencies, and adolescent and family life agencies.

Mental health and substance abuse treatment, and domestic violence services are available to participants as a supportive service activity to assist in overcoming barriers to employment. Supportive Services also include childcare, transportation, and work related expenses to enable participation in Welfare-to-Work activities. Parents are also required to cooperate with the District Attorney to obtain child support, and verify immunization and school attendance for their children.

There are seven GAIN regional offices and 24 district offices in L.A. County, serving approximately 80,000 participants annually. The GAIN Services Worker (GSW), together with the CalWORKs participant, develops the Welfare-to-Work plan to include treatment services in any and all supportive services.